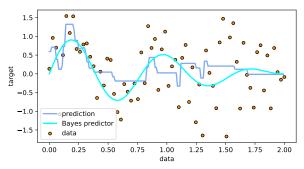
# Fondamentaux théoriques du machine learning

Random forest regression number of estimators: 5 max depth: 3 test error: 8.14E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



#### Ensemble learning

Bagging Random forest Boosting

#### Statistical learning

Bounding the estimation error Interpolation regime and double descent

#### Model selection and sparsity

Model selection Lasso

# Ensemble learning

- Bagging and boosting are methods that combine estimators (in parallel or sequentially)
- they are often applied to decision trees
- ▶ they reach state-of-the-art performance in several supervised learning tasks [Fernández-Delgado et al., 2014]
- they are an active area of research (both theoretically and for practical applications).

https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/ensemble.html

# Aggregating to reduce the variance

- usual setup : input space  $\mathcal{X}$ , output space  $\mathcal{Y}$ .
- we note  $z_b$  a dataset sampled from the unknown distribution  $\rho$ . If we sample b different datasets,  $b \in [1, B]$ ,

$$z_b = \{(x_{1b}, y_{1b}), \dots (x_{nb}, y_{nb})\}$$
 (1)

• we note  $\hat{f}_{z_b}$  the estimator obtained after learning with  $z_b$ .

## Aggregate to reduce the variance

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 (2)

• we note  $\hat{f}_{z_b}$  the estimator obtained after learning with  $z_b$ .

#### Aggregating consists in using as an estimator :

for regression

$$\hat{f}_B = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^{B} \hat{f}_{z_b}$$
 (3)

for classification

$$\hat{f}_B(x) = \arg\max_{j} |\{b, \hat{f}_{z_b}(x) = j\}|$$
 (4)

## Bootstrapping and bagging

If B is large, it is not possible to sample B independent datasets with n samples, from a finite dataset.

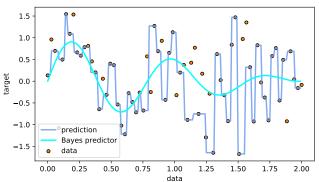
**Bootstrapping** consists in sampling B times a sample dataset with n elements with replacement.

Bagging is the combination of bootstrapping and aggregating.

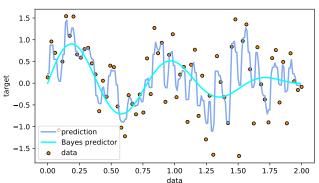
# Out-of-bag error

Vocabulary: for an observation  $(x_i, y_i)$ , the **out-of-bag error** is the mean error on this observation among the estimators that were trained on a bootstrap dataset **not** containing it.

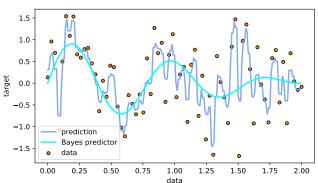
Bagging regression number of estimators: 1 test error: 1.22E+00 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



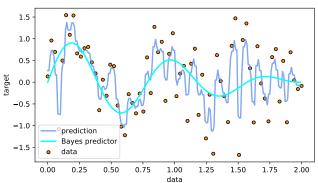
Bagging regression number of estimators: 10 test error: 9.09E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



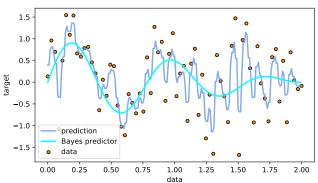
Bagging regression number of estimators: 20 test error: 9.39E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



Bagging regression number of estimators: 50 test error: 8.95E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



Bagging regression number of estimators: 100 test error: 8.81E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



## Individual estimators

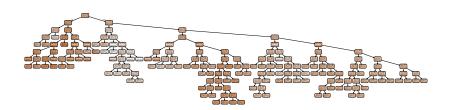


Figure – Estimator used in the averaging

## Individual estimators

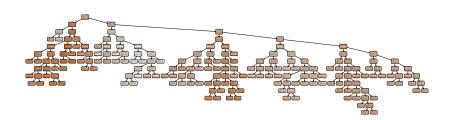


Figure – Other estimator used in the averaging

#### Possible issues

- number of trees to compute (B) in order to have a stable out-of-bag error.
- need for storing all the base estimators
- ▶ the final estimator is a *black-box* model.

#### Random forest

- Random forest [Breiman, 2001] is a bagging method with binary CART estimators, with additional randomness added to the choice of segmentation variables.
- the goal is to increase the independence between the base trees.
- although the theoretical properties of random forest are not yet fully understood, it is an important benchmark in supervised learning (but for instance not when the problem can be solved in a linear way).

# Variance of an average : independent variables

Recall that if  $(X_k)_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence of i.i.d. real variables that have a moment of order 2, and hence a variance  $\sigma^2$ , and an expected value of m. Then if  $S_B = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{i=1}^B X_i$ 

$$Var(S_B) = \sum_{i=1}^{B} Var(\frac{1}{B}X_i)$$

$$= \frac{1}{B^2} \sum_{i=1}^{B} Var(X_i)$$

$$= \frac{\sigma^2}{B}$$
(5)

## Variance of the average : correlated variables

However, if the  $X_i$  are identically distributed but correlated with correlation c, then we admit that

$$Vac(S_B) = c\sigma^2 + \frac{1-c}{B}\sigma^2 \tag{6}$$

Random forest diminishes c by adding some randomness in the choice of the segmentation variables.

#### Random forest

Let d be the number of features. Let  $m \le d$  be an integer.

Result: Random forest estimator

for  $b \in [1, B]$  do

Sample a bootstrap dataset  $z_b$ ;

Estimate  $\hat{f_{z_b}}$  with **randomization** of the variables. The search of the optimal segmentation is done on m randomly sampled variables.;

end

$$\hat{f}_B = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^{B} \hat{f}_{z_b} \tag{7}$$

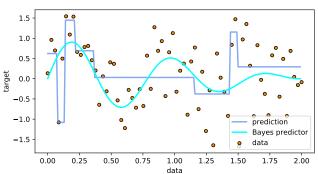
return  $\hat{f_B}$ 

Algorithm 1: Random forest

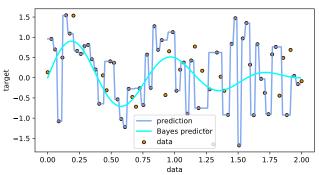
#### Remarks on random forest

- ► With random forest, it is possible to use a more brutal pruning (for instance using only trees of depth 2)
- ▶ To tune *m*, heuristics are used. Common ones include :
  - $ightharpoonup m = \sqrt{d}$  for classification (d is the number of features)
  - ightharpoonup m = d/3 for regression
  - cross validation.

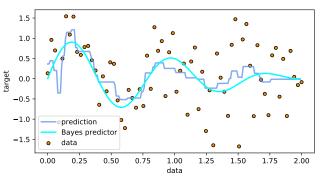
Random forest regression number of estimators: 1 max depth: 3 test error: 9.64E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



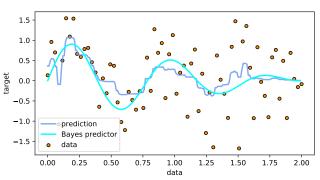
Random forest regression number of estimators: 1 max depth: 30 test error: 1.26E+00 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



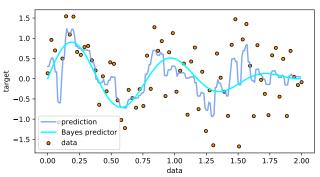
Random forest regression number of estimators: 10 max depth: 3 test error: 7.54E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



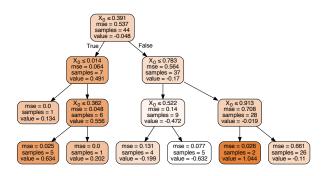
Random forest regression number of estimators: 50 max depth: 3 test error: 7.53E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



Random forest regression number of estimators: 20 max depth: 5 test error: 8.09E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



#### **Estimators**



# Importance of the variables

Although the obtained estimator is hard to interpret, we can still study the statistical importance of variables for the prediction.

## Mean decrease accuracy

Consider a variable j. For a given tree b

- compute the out-of-bag error.
- ▶ shuffle the values of *j* in the out-of-bag sample.
- compute the new out-of-bag error
- $\triangleright$  store the decrease in prediction quality,  $D_j^b$ .

Average the  $D_j^b$  on b in order to measure the importance of the variable j.

# Boosting

- ▶ While bagging is a random method, **boosting** is an adaptive method.
- Boosting builds on weak classifiers, and like bagging, aggregates them, for instance with a weighted sum.
- Mowever, the weak classifiers are built **sequentially**. The classifier b+1 adapts the classifier b by focusing on improving the prediction of incorrectly classified training samples.
- Several variants exists (in the weighting, loss function, aggregating method, etc).

#### Adaboost

- Original boosting algorithm [Freund and Schapire, 1996]
- $\mathcal{Y} = \{-1, 1\}$  (but can also be adapted to a regression problem)
- ▶ Given the sample dataset  $z = \{(x_1, y_1), ...(x_n, y_n)\}$ . We learn a sequence of estimators  $(\delta_m)_{m \in [1..B]}$  (often CART).

Initialize the weights  $w = \{w_i = \frac{1}{n}, i = 1..n\};$ for m = 1..B do

Estimate  $\delta_m$  on the weighted dataset. Compute the error rate

$$\hat{\epsilon_m} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i 1(\delta_m(x_i) \neq y_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i}$$
 (8)

Compute the logit of  $\hat{\epsilon_m}$ 

$$c_m = \log\left(\frac{1 - \hat{\epsilon_m}}{\hat{\epsilon_m}}\right) \tag{9}$$

Update the weights

$$w_i \leftarrow w_i \exp\left(-c_m \mathbb{1}(\delta_m(x_i) \neq y_i)\right)$$
 (10)

end

$$\hat{\delta_B} = \operatorname{sign}\left(\sum_{k=1}^{B} \delta_{z_k}\right) \tag{11}$$

return  $\hat{f_B}$ 

Algorithm 2: Adaboost for binary classification (adaptive boos-



#### Remarks

We need to enforce that  $c_m \geq 0$ . It is verified if  $\hat{\epsilon_m} \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .

$$c_m = \log\left(\frac{1 - \hat{\epsilon_m}}{\hat{\epsilon_m}}\right) \tag{12}$$

- ▶ It is experimentally shown that if the weak classifiers are *stump trees* (2 leaves), then adaBoost performs better than one given tree with a number of leaves equal to the number of iterations of adaBoost (hence a comparable computation time).
- ▶ A number of leaves *q* between 4 and 8 for the weak classifiers is often recommended.
- adaBoost can be adapted to multiclass classification and regression [Schapire, 2003].

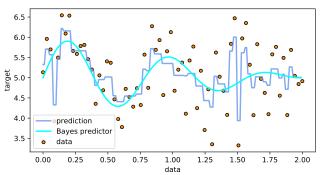
# Gradient tree boosting

- differentiate with respect to the predictions of the tree (compute a gradient)
- approximate the gradient by a regression tree
- update the tree following this gradient.

# Gradient tree boosting

Algorithm 3: Gradient tree boosting

Gradient boosting regression number of estimators: 40 max depth: 3 test error: 8.39E-01 Bayes risk: 7.00E-01



# Gradient tree boosting

Many parameter can be tuned :

- maximum depth of the estimators
- ▶ shrinkage  $\eta$  ( $\hat{f_m} = \hat{f_{m-1}} + \eta \gamma_m \delta_m$ , with  $0 \le \eta \le 1$ ). If  $\eta$  is low, e.g.  $\le 0.1$ , it can lead to a slower convergence but might prevent overfitting.
- number of trees learned B

https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2016/02/ complete-guide-parameter-tuning-gradient-boosting-gbm-pytho It is necessary to experiment, read documentations, cross validate, use heuristics, etc.

# Extreme gradient boosting

- ➤ XGBoost : variant of gradient boosting, very efficient on several benchmarks [Chen and Guestrin, 2016]
- can exploit parallelization
- https: //xgboost.readthedocs.io/en/latest/parameter.html
- https://github.com/dmlc/xgboost

### Catboost

➤ See also : Catboost https://catboost.ai/

#### Ensemble learning

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#### Statistical learning

Bounding the estimation error Interpolation regime and double descent

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# Statistical learning

- ▶ We come back to the statistical analysis of supervised learning.
- ▶ More precisely, to that of empirical risk minimization.

#### Reminder on risks

Let I be a loss. Generalization error:

$$R(f) = E_{(X,Y)\sim\rho}[I(Y,f(X))] \tag{15}$$

The empirical risk (ER) of an estimator f writes

$$R_n(f) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I(y_i, f(x_i))$$
 (16)

Remember that the risks depends on the loss 1.

# Risk decomposition

- ► f\* : Bayes predictor
- F : Hypothesis space
- $ightharpoonup f_n$ : estimated predictor (hence in F).

$$E\left[R(f_n)\right] - R^* = \left(E\left[R(f_n)\right] - \inf_{f \in F} R(f)\right) + \left(\inf_{f \in F} R(f) - R^*\right)$$
(17)

## Risk decomposition

- ▶ f\* : Bayes predictor
- F : Hypothesis space
- $ightharpoonup f_n$ : estimated predictor.

When doing empirical risk minimization,  $f_n$  is obtained by minimization of the empirical risk.

#### However:

- we have seen that in many cases, finding the exact minimizer of the empirical risk might be computationnally hard.
- also, a natural question is whether it is sufficient to have an approximate minimizer of the empirical risk, as the empirical risk is an approximation of the generalization error.

# Risk decomposition

Estimation error (variance term, fluctuation error, stochastic error) : depends on  $D_n$ , F,  $f_n$ .

$$E\Big[R(f_n)\Big]-\inf_{f\in F}R(f)\geq 0$$

**Approximation error (bias term)**: depends on  $f^*$  and F, not on  $f_n$ ,  $D_n$ .

$$\inf_{f\in F}R(f)-R^*\geq 0$$

It is also possible to consider the **Optimization error** : depends on  $D_n$ , F,  $f_n$ .

$$E\left[R(\hat{f}_n) - R(f_n)\right] \tag{18}$$

where  $\hat{f}_n$  is an approximate solution to the optimization problem.

We will now focus on the estimation error

$$E\Big[R(f_n)\Big]-\inf_{f\in F}R(f)\geq 0$$

 $f_n$  is the empirical risk minimizer We consider the best estimator in hypothesis space

$$f_a = \underset{h \in F}{\operatorname{arg min}} R(h)$$

We have seen that

$$R(f_n) - R(f_a) \le 2 \sup_{h \in F} |R(h) - R_n(h)|$$
 (19)

#### Deterministic bound on the estimation error

$$f_a = \underset{h \in F}{\arg \min} R(h) \tag{20}$$

$$f_n = \underset{h \in F}{\arg\min} \, R_n(h) \tag{21}$$

$$R(f_n) - R(f_a) = (R(f_n) - R_n(f_n)) + (R_n(f_n) - R_n(f_a)) + (R_n(f_a) - R(f_a))$$
(22)

#### Deterministic bound on the estimation error

$$f_{a} = \underset{h \in F}{\operatorname{arg min}} R(h)$$

$$f_{n} = \underset{h \in F}{\operatorname{arg min}} R_{n}(h)$$
(23)

$$R(f_{n}) - R(f_{a}) = (R(f_{n}) - R_{n}(f_{n})) + (R_{n}(f_{n}) - R_{n}(f_{a})) + (R_{n}(f_{a}) - R(f_{a}))$$
(24)

But by definition  $f_n$  minimizes  $R_n$ , so  $(R_n(f_n) - R_n(f_a)) \le 0$ .

### Deterministic bound on the estimation error

$$f_a = \underset{h \in F}{\arg \min} R(h)$$

$$f_n = \underset{h \in F}{\arg \min} R_n(h)$$
(25)

$$R(f_{n}) - R(f_{a}) = (R(f_{n}) - R_{n}(f_{n})) + (R_{n}(f_{n}) - R_{n}(f_{a})) + (R_{n}(f_{a}) - R(f_{a}))$$
(26)

But by definition  $f_n$  minimizes  $R_n$ , so  $(R_n(f_n) - R_n(f_a)) \le 0$ . Finally:

$$R(f_n) - R(f_a) \le 2 \sup_{h \in F} |R(h) - R_n(h)|$$
 (27)

If we are able to bound  $\sup_{h\in F}|R(h)-R_n(h)|$ , then we have a bound on the estimation error.

#### **Theorem**

Weak law of large numbers

Let  $(X_i)_{i\in\mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of i.i.d. variables that have a moment of order 2. We note m their expected value. Then

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \lim_{n \to +\infty} P\left(\left|\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i - m\right| \ge \epsilon\right) = 0$$
 (28)

We say that we have convergence in probability.

#### **Theorem**

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 (29)

We say that we have convergence in probability.

**However**, this is only an asymptotical result : it is a limit for  $n \to +\infty$ .

If we are able to bound  $\sup_{h\in F} |R(h) - R_n(h)|$ , then we have a bound on the estimation error.

To do this, we will use some other mathematical results:

- Boole's inequality
- Hoeffding's inequality (non-asymptotical probabilistic bound)

# Boole's inequality

#### Proposition

Let  $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ , be accountable set of events of a probability space  $\{\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P\}$ . Then.

$$P\Big(\cup_{i\geq 1}A_i\Big)\leq \sum_{i\geq 1}P(A_i) \tag{30}$$

This set might be infinite.

# Boole's inequality

### Proposition

Let  $A_1, A_2, \ldots$ , be accountable set of events of a probability space  $\{\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P\}$ . Then.

$$P\Big(\cup_{i\geq 1} A_i\Big) \leq \sum_{i\geq 1} P(A_i) \tag{31}$$

This set might be infinite.

Exercice 1: Proove the proposition.

# Hoeffding's inequality

#### Theorem

Hoeffding's inequality

Let  $(X_i)_{1 \le i \le n}$  be n i.i.d real random variables such that  $\forall i \in [1, n]$ ,  $X_i \in [a, b]$  and  $E(X_i) = \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $\bar{\mu} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ . Then  $\forall \epsilon > 0$ .

$$P(|\bar{\mu} - \mu| \ge \epsilon) \le 2 \exp\left(-\frac{2n\epsilon^2}{(b-a)^2}\right)$$

We admit this theorem.

# Setting

- Supervised learning.
- Finite space of estimator F.
- ▶ The loss I is uniformly bounded :  $I(\hat{y}, y) \in [a, b]$  with a and b real numbers.

# Step 1

We have seen that

$$R(f_n) - R(f_a) \le 2 \sup_{h \in F} |R(h) - R_n(h)|$$
 (32)

As a consequence, for all  $t \geq 0$ :

$$P\Big(R(f_n) - R(f_a) \ge t\Big) \le P\Big(2\sup_{h \in F} |R(h) - R_n(h)| \ge t\Big)$$
 (33)

# Step 2

The fact that

$$2\sup_{h\in F}|R(h)-R_n(h)|\geq t\tag{34}$$

is equivalent to:

$$\cup_{h\in F} \Big(2|R(h)-R_n(h)|\geq t\Big) \tag{35}$$

### Conclusion

Exercice 2: Using Boole's inequality and Hoeffding's inequality, show that

$$P(R(f_n) - R(f_a) \ge t) \le 2|F| \exp\left(-\frac{nt^2}{2(b-a)^2}\right)$$
 (36)

## Conclusion

We write

$$\delta = 2|F| \exp\left(-\frac{nt^2}{2(b-a)^2}\right) \tag{37}$$

#### Exercice 3:

We assume that b-a=1. Show that with probability  $\geq 1-\delta$ ,

$$R(f_n) \le R(f_a) + 2\sqrt{\frac{\log(|F|) + \log(\frac{2}{\delta})}{2n}}$$
 (38)

### Generalization

It is possible to generalize to infinite sets :

- by sampling F
- by using Rademacher complexity and Vapnik Vapnik-Chervonenkis theory.

This classical bound on the statistical error does not guarantee that the generalization error is small when log(|F|) is large.

# Interpolation regime

- ▶ If the number of parameters is sufficient, it is possible to have  $R_n(f_n)=0.$
- In that case, it seems that the statistical error might to be way smaller than the previous bound.

For instance, for Wide Resnet,  $\frac{p}{n} = 179$  with

- p: number of parameters in the netwok
- n : number of samples

# Double descent

[Belkin et al., 2019]

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# Example

- ▶ If d>>n and we want to learn a linear model  $x\mapsto \langle \theta,x\rangle$ , we have seen that this raises statistical issues (high variance, overfitting).
- ▶ However, if we know in advance that  $\theta$  only has s < d non-zero coordinates (sparse  $\theta$ ), we can reformulate to an easier problem.
- ▶ But most of the time this is not the case, *s* is not known, so we need to test several subsets of non-zero coordinates.

# Example

We could write the following regularized optimization problem

$$\hat{\theta} = \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\min} \left( ||Y - X\theta|| + \lambda ||\theta||_0 \right)$$
 (39)

- $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (labels)
- $ightharpoonup X \in \mathbb{R}^{n,d}$  (design matrix)
- $|\theta|_0$ : number of non-zero components of  $\theta$

## Example

We could write the following regularized optimization problem

$$\hat{\theta} = \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\min} \left( ||Y - X\theta|| + \lambda ||\theta||_0 \right) \tag{40}$$

- $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (labels)
- $ightharpoonup X \in \mathbb{R}^{n,d}$  (design matrix)
- $ightharpoonup ||\theta||_0$  : number of non-zero components of  $\theta$

#### However,

- optimization issue (not convex)
- computationally prohibitive to test all subsets of [1, d]. Exercice 4: How many subsets does [1, d] contain?

#### Lasso

Lasso

Le Lasso replaces  $||\theta||_0$  by  $||\theta||_1$ .

$$||\theta_1|| = \sum_{i=1}^d |\theta_i| \tag{41}$$

Lasso estimator:

$$\tilde{\theta}_{\lambda} \in \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\arg\min}\{||Y - X\theta||^2 + \lambda||\theta||_1\}$$
 (42)

For technically involved reasons, the optimization with the lasso leads to sparser solutions in some situations.

#### Lasso

Lasso estimator:

$$\tilde{\theta}_{\lambda} \in \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\arg\min}\{||Y - X\theta||^2 + \lambda||\theta||_1\}$$
 (43)

For technically involved reasons, the optimization with the lasso leads to sparser solutions. Frequently used optimization algorithm :

- coordinate descent (algorithm used in scikit)
- Fista
- LARS

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinate\_descent

# Example in 1D

Exercice 5: What is the solution to the following optimization problem?

$$\min_{\theta} F(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} (y - \theta)^2 + \lambda |\theta| \tag{44}$$

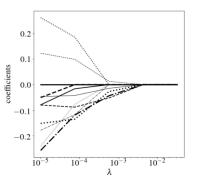


Figure – Regularization path with a Lasso optimization of a problem with d=12. Each line represents the evolution of a  $\theta_i$  when  $\lambda$  increases. Image from [Azencott, 2022].

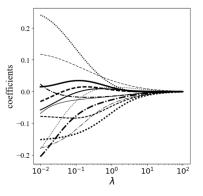


Figure – Regularization path with a Ridge optimization of a problem with d=12. Each line represents the evolution of a  $\theta_i$  when  $\lambda$  increases. Image from [Azencott, 2022].

#### Elastic net

Combination of L1 and L2 regularization.

Elastic-net estimator:

$$\tilde{\theta}_{\lambda} \in \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\arg\min} \{ ||Y - X\theta||^2 + \lambda_1 ||\theta||_1 + \lambda_2 ||\theta||_2 \}$$
 (45)

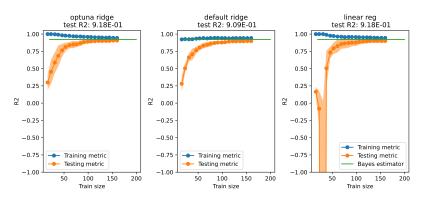
To choose  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ : cross validation.

In the following examples, the data are linear, with a sparse  $\theta^*$ .

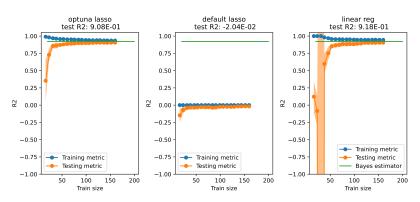
$$y_i = x^T \theta^* + \epsilon_i \tag{46}$$

We compare Ridge and Lasso, for several dimensions (n, d).

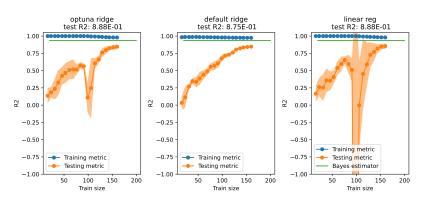
Learning curves ridge Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=200, d=30 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 4.53E-03s



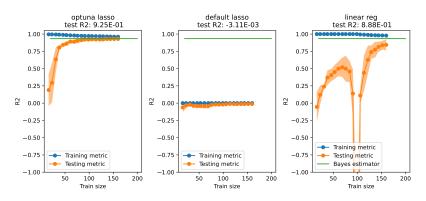
Learning curves lasso Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=200, d=30 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 4.71E-03s



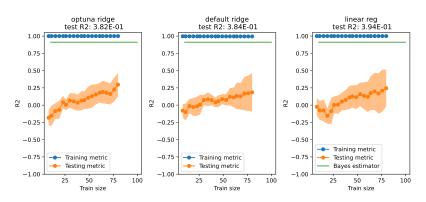
Learning curves ridge Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=200, d=100 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 1.61E+00s



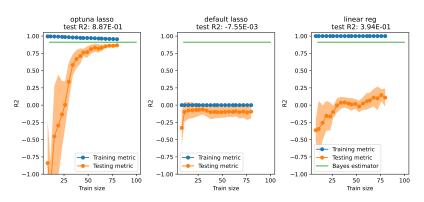
Learning curves lasso Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=200, d=100 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 1.54E-02s



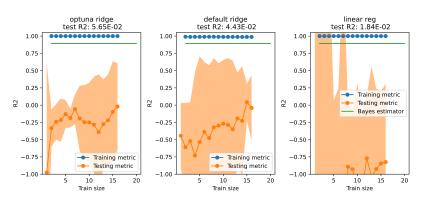
Learning curves ridge Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=100, d=200 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 1.24E+00s



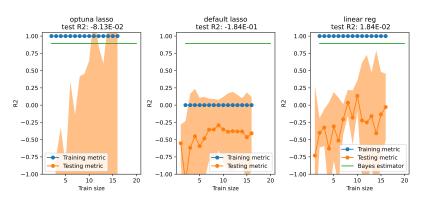
Learning curves lasso Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=100, d=200 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 1.77E-02s



Learning curves ridge Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=20, d=100 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 4.70E-03s



Learning curves lasso Bayes risk: 4.000E-02 n=20, d=100 60 optuna trials average time per trial: 8.92E-03s



# Multiple objective optimization

A estimator might be considered good for several reasons :

- quality of the predictions
- ▶ short(er) optimization time
- small(er) computational ressources

## Multiple-objective optimization

In optuna for instance, it is possible to do **mutliple objective** optimization.

```
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pareto_front
https://optuna.readthedocs.io/en/stable/tutorial/20_recipes/002_multi_objective.html
https://optuna.readthedocs.io/en/stable/reference/visualization/generated/optuna.visualization.plot_pareto_front.html
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